



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,024	10/29/2003	Shinsaku Inada	7217/71175	7063
530	7590	05/30/2006	EXAMINER	
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK 600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST WESTFIELD, NJ 07090			WALK, SAMUEL J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2612	

DATE MAILED: 05/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

8

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/696,024	Applicant(s) INADA ET AL.	
	Examiner Samuel J. Walk	Art Unit 2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2612

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suda (US 6718240) in view of Hsu (US 6100811) and in further view of Flick (US 6140939).

In reference to Claim 1, Suda discloses a remote keyless entry system wherein claimed detecting means met by remote keyless entry unit 111, see Fig. 1 and Col. 4 lns 48-54; claimed personal authentication processing means met by controller 217, see Col. 5 lns 11-22; claimed registration storing means met by memory 219, see Col. 5 lns 23-25; claimed door lock controlling means met by inherent door lock controller since user interface system 119 is used to access and set door lock and unlock, see Col. 4 lns 13-23; claimed setting status controlling means met by vehicle interface unit 119, see Col. 4 lns 13-23. Suda does not disclose personal authentication information and personal ID

Art Unit: 2612

of each person. However, Hsu teaches of a fingerprint actuation of customized vehicle features wherein a sensed fingerprint images is compared with stored reference fingerprints to verify the identity of the user and retrieve user environmental settings, see Col. 1 lns 46-67 and Col. 2 lns 1-6. Hsu further teaches that the apparatus further comprises means for obtaining and storing reference fingerprint image data and environmental settings pertaining to additional users, see Col. 2 lns 37-39 and lns 55-60. Therefore, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have incorporated the teachings of Hsu into the system of Suda because authenticating the information and ID of each person adds to the overall security of the system and identifying and storing the identification and environmental settings for each user adds to the overall comfortability and convenience of the multiple drivers of a single vehicle. The combined system of Suda and Hsu do not disclose personal authentication mounted on the communication device. However, Flick teaches of a biometric characteristic vehicle control system wherein remote transmitter 50 including biometric sensor 59, such as a fingerprint sensor, see Col. 5 lns 5-13. Therefore, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have incorporated the teachings of Flick into the system of Suda and

Art Unit: 2612

Hsu because locating the personal authentication means on the communication means allows the user more flexibility and convenience in accessing vehicle controls because it can be performed at a distance away from the vehicle.

In reference to Claim 2, see above rejection in reference to Claim 1. In addition, claimed communicating means met by wireless transmitter 205 and receiver 215, see Col. 4 lns 38-47.

In reference to Claim 3, see above rejection in reference to Claim 1. In addition, Suda discloses that user interface unit 119 is used to access and set settings for the door lock and unlock, keyless entry, power window, interior lighting, head lamp, warning indicator, trunk entry, alarm system, suspension, traction control, audio, video display, navigation, communications equipment, and climate control. Some settings, such as those of the seats, mirrors, and radio station presets, can be set directly in the course of their use.

In reference to Claim 4, see above rejection in reference to Claim 3. In addition, the mirrors are set in the course of their use and programmed into memory according to driver-specific identifications, see Col. 5 lns 58-60.

In reference to Claim 5, see above rejection in reference to Claim 3.

Art Unit: 2612

In reference to Claim 6, see above rejection in reference to Claims 1 and 2.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tatsukawa (US 6710700) discloses a vehicle key system. Gardner (US 2004/0019591) discloses a smart owner's manual.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samuel J. Walk whose telephone number is (571) 272-2960. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00-5:30.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

Art Unit: 2612

Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SJW



JEFFERY HOFSSASS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600